



# The Bookworm Ages 3-5

From your Local Library and Idaho's Read to Me Program

## The ABC's

Children who go to kindergarten already knowing the shapes and names of the letters of the alphabet, and how to write them, have a much easier time learning to read. Knowing the names and shapes of letters is called "letter" or "alphabetic" knowledge.

Here are some ways to help your young child learn about letters:

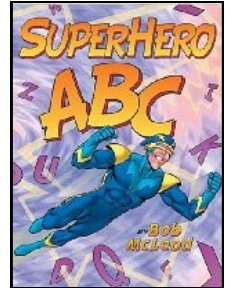
- Young children usually learn the letters in their name first. They are their favorite letters! Write your child's name where he or she can see it often, and have your child write his or her name in their own way.
- Sing the alphabet song together and play with rhymes.
- Let your child play with magnet letters and blocks that have letters on them.
- Read alphabet books together.
- Point out and name letters when reading books, signs or labels.
- Write words that interest your child (like dinosaur, truck, or mom) using crayons or magnetic letters.
- Children appear to learn letters in an order: letter names first, then letter shapes, and finally letter sounds.

By the time your child is five, he or she should be able to name at least 10 letters in the alphabet, especially the ones in his or her name.

## Book of the Month

### *Superhero ABC*, by Bob McLeod

In this comic book-style picture book, cartoon illustrations introduce a new superhero for each letter of the alphabet. Though one won't find the likes of Superman or Wonder Woman in this book, children will love listening to the descriptions of new favorites, such as Goo Girl, Power Pup and Jumping Jack.



This book is a favorite of early readers, both boys and girls. It is a great way to practice letter names and sounds, and also to build vocabulary. Each time you read it you will find something new!



**More great ABC books your child will love reading with you:**

*K is for Kissing a Cool Kangaroo*, Giles Andreae

*Alphabet Under Construction*, Denise Fleming

*Alphabet Rescue*, Audrey Wood

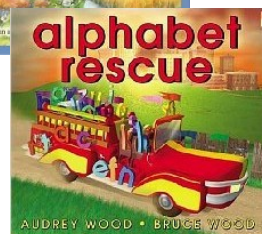
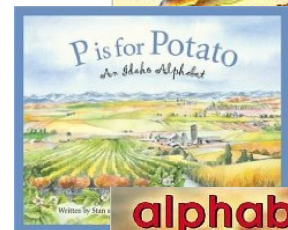
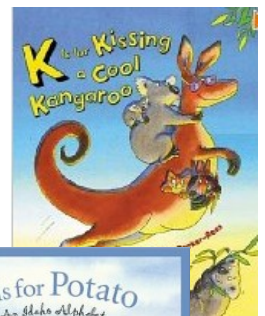
*Miss Spider's ABC*, David Kirk

*P is for Potato: an Idaho Alphabet*, local authors

Stan and Joy Steiner

*ABC: Letters in the Library*, Bonnie Farmer

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*, Bill Martin, Jr., John Archambault



## More fun with *Superhero ABC...*

**Math connection...** How many A's on the A page? (or B's on the B page) Help your child find and count.

**Around the house...** Encourage your child to make letters with clay, wet spaghetti noodles, and yarn, or form the shapes with their bodies or fingers. Trace letters in salt, sugar, sand, shaving cream, or on a steamy mirror.

**Out and about...** Play I Spy with the first letter of your child's name. "I spy with my little eye a "B" on that sign!" "Can you spy other letter B's?" You can also play the game with letter sounds. "I spy with my little eye something that begins with a 'buh' sound, just like your name."

**Arts and crafts...** This activity can be done in short 10–15 minute sessions over several weeks. Staple or tape blank sheets of paper together to form a 26-page booklet. Write or help your child write an upper and lowercase letter for each page. Use old magazines or catalogs and have your child cut or tear out pictures of things that begin with that letter. Glue into book. Invite your child to "read" the book when it is finished!

### Great Winter Books

Snuggle up and get cozy with these favorites...

*Snowmen at Night*, Caralyn Buehner  
*The Snowy Day*, Ezra Jack Keats  
*Owl Moon*, Jane Yolen  
*Snowballs*, Lois Ehlert  
*Bear Snores On*, Karma Wilson  
*Snow*, Uri Shulevitz  
*The Mitten*, Jan Brett



## Song

### Snowkey Pokey

(Sung to the tune of the Hokey Pokey)

You put your right mitten in,  
you take your right mitten out,  
you put your right mitten in  
and you shake it all about.  
You do the snowkey pokey  
and you turn yourself around.  
That's what it's all about.

#### *Additional verses:*

You put your left mitten in . . .  
You put your right boot in . . .  
You put your left boot in . . .  
You put your hat in . . .  
You put your snowself in . . .

You can hear the tune  
and watch a video at  
[http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey\\_pokey.php](http://bussongs.com/songs/hokey_pokey.php)



### What your library can do for you...

Your librarian can help you find more books and activities to help your child learn about letters!

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